

Visiting the Breman

TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES FOR INTERPRETING PHOTOGRAPHS AND ARTIFACTS

Seeing Things in a New Way

Four Steps to Read a Photograph:

1. Examine the people in the photograph.
2. Examine the objects in the photograph.
3. Determine the setting (time and place) of the photograph.
4. Based on what you see, create a title for the photograph.



Step One: Examine the people in the photograph.

Are there people in the photograph?

- Number of people?
- Estimated ages?
- Number of men or boys?
- Number of women or girls?
- Description of clothing
- Description of facial expressions
- Description of what the people are doing



Step Two: Examine the objects in the photograph.

Are there objects in the photograph?

- List the objects.
- Describe them.
 - Color
 - Age
 - Number
 - Intended use
 - Condition
 - Size



Step Three: Describe the setting of the photograph.

- Where was it taken?
 - When was it taken?
 - time of day
 - time of year
- Was it taken outdoors or indoors?
- Describe as many details as possible about the place where it was taken.



Step Four: Create a title for the photograph.

What title would you give the photograph?

Explain why you chose this title.





R – L: Herbert Kohn, son of Leo and grandson of Julius, on his first day of kindergarten, Frankfurt am Main, Germany, 1932.

Gift of Herbert Kohn

Seeing Things in a New Way

Four Steps to Analyze Artifacts or Objects:

1. Describe the artifact.
2. Ask “who” questions.
3. Identify the purpose of the artifact.
4. Describe what the artifact reveals about the culture and time in which it was made and/or used



Analyzing Artifacts

Describe the artifact:

- Of what is it made?
- Describe its color, shape, size, texture and weight.
- Does it have any moveable parts?
- Is anything written or marked on it?
 - In what language is it written?
- What is this artifact?

(When answering this question, consider only what can be seen.)



Analyzing Artifacts

Ask “who” questions:

- For whom might the artifact have been intended?
- For what gender and age individual might this artifact have been intended?
- Who actually used the artifact?
- Who does the artifact include?
- Who does the artifact exclude?



Analyzing Artifacts

Identify the purpose of the artifact:

- How was the artifact used?
- Where was it used?
- What was it intended to do?
- Why was it created?
- When was it used?



Analyzing Artifacts

Describe what the artifact reveals about the culture and time in which it was made and/or used:

- What was important to people at that time?
- What historic events were occurring at that time?
- What does the artifact reveal about the events of that time?





Iron cross awarded to Leo Kohn by the German government for exemplary service in World War I, 1936.

Gift of Herbert Kohn

Photographs and Objects Tell a Family History



Leo Kohn and his father, Julius, in their World War I uniforms, ca. 1918.



Iron cross awarded to Leo Kohn by the German government for exemplary service in World War I, 1936.



Herbert Kohn, son of Leo and grandson of Julius, on his first day of kindergarten, Frankfurt am Main, Germany, 1932.

What photos and objects tell your family's story?



Analyze the photograph:

- Who are the people in the photo?
- What objects are in the photo?
- Describe the setting of the photo.
- What would be an appropriate title for this photo? Why?



Sam Silbiger's public school class, Oswiecim (Auschwitz) Poland, 1935. Sam survived the war in Siberia.

Donated by Sam Silbiger



Discuss the political cartoon:

- Who (what group) is the subject of this cartoon?
- What objects are included in this cartoon?
- Identify the setting - When might this cartoon have appeared in the newspaper? What historical event had just occurred?
- What might be an appropriate title for this cartoon?

Visual Artifacts and Photographs Tell a Story



Political cartoon, New York Times, July 3, 1938

A conference took place in the French resort of Evian in 1938 to talk about the wave of Jewish refugees, but none of the nations present was willing to do more than they were already doing to help the Jews of Germany.

Courtesy of New York Public Library, New York



Hotel Royal in Evian-les Bains, Site of the International Conference on Refugees July 1938

photo courtesy of the United States Holocaust Museum archive



Analyze the photograph:

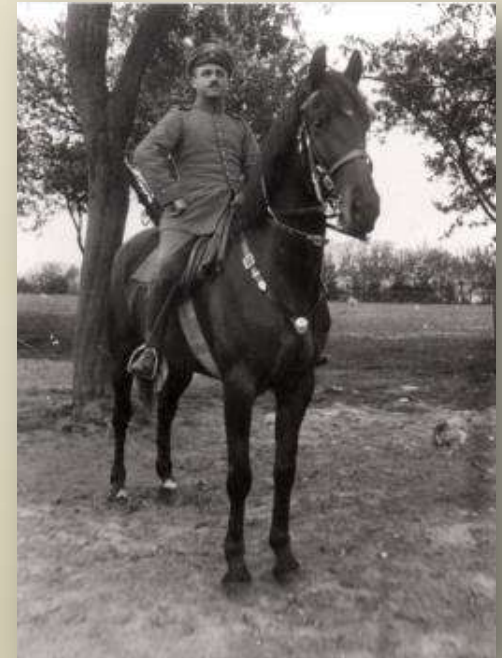
- Who are the people in the photo?
 - What are they doing?
 - How would you describe their expressions?
- What objects are in the photo?
- Describe the setting of the photo.
- What would be an appropriate title for this photo? Why?

Photographs Tell a Story



The S.S. St. Louis
Celebration on board ship, May, 1939,
Henry Goldstein seated at the table (third from left, back).
After the ship's forced return to Europe, Henry's father was
murdered in Auschwitz.

Donated by Henry Gallant



Henry Goldstein's father was sent to the
Gurs internment camp in France. In
1942, he was transported from Drancy to
Auschwitz, a death camp in Poland. He
perished there and Henry never saw his
father again.

Analyze the Object:

- Describe the object.
- Ask “who” questions.
- Identify the purpose of the object.
- Describe what the object reveals about the culture and time in which it was made or used.



Objects Tell a Story

This doll was purchased by Frieda Lefkowitz before she emigrated from Poland to the United States. It was a baby gift for her niece. Frieda's entire family was murdered during the Holocaust.

Twenty years after the war, during a trip to Poland, Frieda discovered the doll in her girlhood home, now occupied by a Polish family.



Doll, Lodz, Poland, c.1930s

Gift of Frieda Yoskowitz Lefkowitz



Analyze the Artifacts:

- Describe the artifact.
- Ask “who” questions.
- Identify the purpose of the artifact.
- Describe what the artifact reveals about the culture and time in which it was made or used.

Skill Practice



**HIDING PLACE FOR
IMPORTANT PAPERS
AND VALUABLES**

HIDING PLACE

Suitcase used by Etke Neuman and her daughter Paula, when they were deported in 1941 from Chernovitz, Romania to the Transnistria hard labor camps, located in what is now the Ukraine.

Note the hiding place for identity papers. The suitcase was used in Transnistria and in several displaced persons camps throughout Europe by Etke, Paula and younger daughter Sylvia.

Courtesy of Paula Neuman Gris

Artifacts Tell a Story

Legation juive de Berlin
Table-Recensement
 Recensement effectué aux Commissariats le matin du 7 Juin 1942.

N°	Nom et Prénom	Sexe	Date de naissance	Profession		Observation
				avant	depuis	
1	Mumbatz Sarah	53	mar. 1888			
2	"	56	jan. 1885			
3	"	11	"			
4	Grünberg Elias	42	mar. 1898			
5	"	43	jan. 1897			
6	"	24	mar. 1918			
7	"	17	jan. 1925			
8	"	12	mar. 1930			
9	"	1	"			
10	Stamborg Elise	52	"			
11	Stamborg Milla	53	jan. 1888			
12	"	52	mar. 1889			
13	"	37	"			
14	Ludwig Benjamine	37	jan. 1895			
15	"	36	jan. 1896			
16	Silbergal Josef	36	mar. 1906			
17	Neuman Sara	30	jan. 1912			
18	"	4	"			
19	"	8	"			
20	Lejchman Mera	43	mar. 1899			
21	"	46	jan. 1896			
22	"	11	"			
23	"	11	"			
24	"	37	"			
25	Hirshman Rebekka	37	mar. 1905			
26	Kandau Simcha	37	mar. 1905			
27	"	31	jan. "			
28	Taubert David	30	mar. 1912			
29	"	31	jan. 1911			
30	Classel Mendel	37	mar. 1905			
31	"	41	"			
32	Stamborg Sara	60	jan. 1882			
33	"	50	mar. 1892			
34	"	49	"			
35	"	46	jan. 1896			
36	"	20	mar. 1922			
37	"	6	"			
38	"	37	"			
39	"	41	jan. "			
40	"	32	mar. 1910			
41	"	36	jan. 1906			
42	"	36	mar. 1906			

Deportation list, June 7, 1942



Passport photo – Paula and her mother, 1942



Suitcase used by Paula and her mother upon their deportation in 1941



Analyze the display and photograph:

- Who are the people in the photo?
- Why is the photo displayed this way?
- What is the setting of the photo?
- What would be a good title for this photo? Why?

Photographs and Visual Artifacts Tell a Story



Children help each other through a hole in the ghetto wall, Warsaw ghetto, c. 1941. Small children sometimes sneaked, at risk to their lives, through small openings to look for food outside the ghetto and smuggle it in.

*Photo courtesy of Yad Vashem,
Jerusalem*



Analyze the Artifact:

- Describe the artifact.
- Ask “who” questions.
- Identify the purpose of the artifact.
- Describe what the artifact reveals about the culture and time in which it was made or used.



Analyze the photograph:

- Who are the people in the photo?
- What objects are in the photo?
- Describe the setting of the photo.
- What would be an appropriate title for this photo? Why?

Artifacts and Photographs Tell a Story



Fabric stamped with Stars of David and the word "Jude" which means "Jew" in German, c. 1941. Jews were made to purchase the stars and sew them to all garments.

Loaned by the Wannsee Museum, Berlin



Lilly (left) and Henia Visgardiski on the first day children were required to wear a yellow star, Kovno ghetto, Lithuania, ca. 1941. Both children survived in hiding.

Donated by Sam Wise

Analyze the Object:

- Describe the object.
- Ask “who” questions.
 - Who made it?
 - Who used it?
- Identify the purpose of the artifact.
- What does this object reveal about the culture and time in which it was made and/or used?





Dress, ca. 1942 – 1945; issued to 10 year old Eva Leierova in the Auschwitz concentration camp, 1942. She was liberated from a death march in 1945.

Donated by Eva Leierova Brooks

Hat, part of the uniform of Leo Borkowsky, liberated by the American army in 1945 while on a train headed for Dachau.

Gift of Ruben and Lola Borkowska Lansky



The Borkowsky family, after liberation, 1945

Analyse the Item:

- Describe the item.
- Ask “who” questions.
- Identify the purpose of the item.
- Describe what the item reveals about the culture and time in which it was made and used.





Wedding dress, 1947. The fabric for the dress was given to Penina Weisz while she was in a DP camp in Salzburg, Austria by her fiance, Harold Bowman, an American GI. When she immigrated to Palestine, she sewed the material into the lining of her coat, smuggled it into the country, and sewed the dress by hand.

Loaned by Penina Weisz Bowman



Penina Weisz sewing in a DP Camp



Penina and Harold Bowman in Palestine on their wedding day. Penina is wearing the dress she sewed by hand.